

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2001



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Unemployment rate lower than state and nation

**Annual average wages increase but remain lower than state (see table page 2)**

The **November** unemployment rate in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan area was 4.6 percent seasonally adjusted. According to the estimates released by the Department of Workforce Development, the current rate declined from October's 4.7 percent. It is also lower than both the state and national seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in November of 4.7 and 5.7 percent, respectively.

Only three of the eleven metropolitan areas in Wisconsin reported a drop in November unemployment. In addition to the Eau Claire area, the unemployment rates in Kenosha and LaCrosse also declined. And, only three of the metro areas had an unemployment rate higher than the state.

The reason for the decline in the unemployment rate in the metro area in November was a drop in the number of jobless. The number of residents who were unemployed and looking for work dropped from 4,045 to 3,970. That number remains nearly 1,000 higher than a year ago, however, when the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent.

Without seasonal adjustment the Eau Claire-Chippewa unemployment rate was 4.1 percent the same as the rate for the combined nine-county region of West Central Wisconsin. In both cases, the rate this November is higher than in the previous month and year. And for both areas the reason for the increase is due to a greater number of unemployed this November.

The increase in the number of unemployed reflects a loss of jobs, primarily from local manufacturers, and an increase in the number of residents filing claims for unemployment compensation benefits.

In mid-November nearly 4,000 claims were filed for unemployment benefits by residents of West Central Wisconsin. That's over 1,000 more than in the same week one year earlier. Residents in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties filed nearly half of those claims (1,800).

By the first week in December the number of claims by residents of the entire region nearly doubled to 7,900 but have declined since then. For the December survey week (week of the 5<sup>th</sup>) the number of claims was down to 6,031. This is still higher than in the same week of the previous year and month but it also reflects a trend much closer to what has become typical for December.

For most of this year the primary reason for higher unemployment rates has been the reduction in manufacturing jobs. In the metro area there were 1,000 fewer production jobs this November compared with one year earlier but that number has held fairly constant since the lay offs that occurred earlier this year and throughout last year. Most of the job reductions in November occurred in construction. It also bears repeating that the total number of jobs in the Eau Claire metro area is 700 higher than last November.

The rural counties also lost construction jobs, but there the majority of the job losses did occur with manufacturing employers. Most of those reductions were in Barron and St. Croix counties and many of them were seasonal. Even though the total number of regional jobs is down from October, there are nearly 2,000 more than one year ago. Many of those jobs are in retail trade.

### Labor Force Estimates, not seasonally adjusted

November Estimates	Wisconsin	EC MSA	Barron	Clark	Dunn	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St.Croix	WC Wis
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,049,800	85,900	24,200	16,100	23,600	3,200	21,300	23,600	35,100	233,000
Employed	2,919,500	82,400	23,200	15,200	22,800	3,100	20,600	22,500	33,600	223,400
Unemployed	130,300	3,500	1,000	900	800	200	700	1,100	1,400	9,600
Unemployment rate(%)	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%	5.4%	3.4%	4.9%	3.3%	4.7%	4.1%	4.1%
<b>Change from previous month</b>										
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	600	300	-400	-300	500	-100	100	-300	300	100
Employed	-11,300	0	-500	-500	400	-100	0	-500	100	-1,100
Unemployed	11,900	300	100	200	100	0	100	200	200	1,200
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%	0.5%	1.5%	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%
<b>Change from one year ago</b>										
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	55,300	1,900	200	100	400	100	100	900	600	4,200
Employed	12,300	1,000	300	0	200	0	-100	500	-200	1,700
Unemployed	42,900	900	0	100	300	0	200	300	700	2,500
Unemployment rate(%)	1.4%	1.0%	-0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	1.2%	0.8%	1.3%	2.0%	1.0%

\* Includes participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.

### Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

November Estimates	Wisconsin	EC MSA	Barron	Clark	Dunn	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St.Croix	WC Wis
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	2,854,400	79,000	22,000	10,200	16,700	2,200	11,400	15,400	27,400	184,200
Construction & Mining	131,040	3,830	920	550	860	180	520	1,060	1,730	9,640
Manufacturing	579,260	11,520	6,670	3,320	2,030	180	1,430	4,670	6,680	36,500
Transportation & Public Util.	136,040	3,870	690	400	510	110	490	510	1,120	7,700
Wholesale Trade	137,320	3,300	570	580	650	270	300	350	610	6,630
Retail Trade	512,030	19,480	4,320	1,360	4,610	470	2,320	2,800	6,070	41,420
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	152,670	3,130	400	230	450	70	330	480	850	5,940
Services	783,830	21,100	3,840	1,580	2,740	410	2,130	2,940	6,380	41,130
Government	422,260	12,770	4,590	2,120	4,810	560	3,870	2,630	3,940	35,290
<b>Change from previous month</b>										
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	-5,300	400	-200	0	400	0	0	-200	-400	-100
Construction & Mining	-5,400	-400	0	0	-100	0	0	-100	0	-600
Manufacturing	-5,710	10	-180	10	-10	0	10	-10	-290	-450
Transportation & Public Util.	-1,220	-10	0	-10	0	-10	-10	0	-10	-50
Wholesale Trade	-560	-10	0	-10	-10	0	0	0	0	-40
Retail Trade	8,230	450	30	-10	90	-10	0	-20	10	540
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	130	40	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	60
Services	-4,410	80	-40	-20	0	0	-80	-120	-130	-300
Government	3,650	210	10	30	430	10	50	0	40	770
<b>Change from one year ago</b>										
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	-16,400	700	200	0	100	0	100	300	600	2,100
Construction & Mining	-3,500	500	100	100	100	0	0	100	200	1,000
Manufacturing	-35,180	-980	-110	40	-120	10	40	90	-210	-1,230
Transportation & Public Util.	120	70	20	20	0	-10	-30	0	-60	20
Wholesale Trade	-1,480	140	0	-20	-20	0	20	0	20	130
Retail Trade	1,520	560	0	-10	0	10	70	10	280	900
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	3,060	450	-20	-20	20	0	10	10	50	490
Services	12,020	-210	220	0	20	0	50	10	190	280
Government	6,960	170	70	-40	110	-10	-60	120	140	500

\*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Current month estimates are preliminary. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

### 2000 Average Annual Wages

	Wisc	Barron	Chippewa	Clark	Dunn	Eau Claire	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St.Croix
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>										
Construction	\$37,764	\$29,763	\$32,554	\$28,439	\$32,013	\$34,440	\$32,924	\$29,398	\$33,416	\$36,735
Mining	\$42,099	*	--	*	*	*	--	*	*	*
Manufacturing	\$39,015	\$28,218	\$35,126	\$27,133	\$36,360	\$30,836	\$27,935	\$34,160	\$29,434	\$33,303
Durable Goods	\$39,816	\$28,796	\$38,363	\$27,613	\$37,979	\$29,899	\$25,354	\$32,932	\$29,705	\$35,373
Nondrbl.Goods	\$37,764	\$27,602	\$28,796	\$26,491	\$34,244	\$32,163	\$32,050	\$37,481	\$28,942	\$30,206
<b>Service Producing Industries</b>										
Agric, Forestry & Fishing	\$21,956	\$20,991	\$23,045	\$18,627	\$23,044	\$19,901	\$20,405	\$16,331	\$16,929	\$18,934
Transportation & Util.	\$35,678	\$28,468	\$23,324	\$22,816	\$29,776	\$37,368	\$18,534	\$33,959	\$30,249	\$33,097
Wholesale Trade	\$39,539	\$24,904	\$31,283	\$25,196	\$25,642	\$33,456	\$34,114	\$23,201	\$26,890	\$43,730
Retail Trade	\$15,850	\$13,098	\$14,311	\$12,435	\$18,023	\$20,065	\$13,229	\$10,437	\$12,387	\$14,298
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	\$39,554	\$24,097	\$23,153	\$21,148	\$22,806	\$28,353	\$27,580	\$29,197	\$27,866	\$29,281
Services	\$27,107	\$20,512	\$20,784	\$17,439	\$19,745	\$25,073	\$20,051	\$19,446	\$20,144	\$22,167
Government	\$31,030	\$25,848	\$28,133	\$24,465	\$31,946	\$34,805	\$23,715	\$30,168	\$25,781	\$26,999
<b>All Industries: 2000</b>	\$30,687	\$23,183	\$26,406	\$22,706	\$25,625	\$26,721	\$23,055	\$24,186	\$24,022	\$26,202
1999 Annual Avg.	\$29,609	\$22,102	\$25,405	\$22,085	\$24,609	\$25,279	\$22,722	\$23,138	\$22,937	\$24,871
Percent change	3.6%	4.9%	3.9%	2.8%	4.1%	5.7%	1.5%	4.5%	4.7%	5.3%

Source: DILHR, UC Covered Employment & Wages, Report 209, November 2001

Annual average wages increased in each county of the West Central region in 2000, as did annual wages in nearly every industry. Notable exceptions were a decline in non-durable goods manufacturing wages in Clark and Eau Claire counties, a reduction in annual average construction wages in Chippewa and Pepin counties, and lower wages in services in Pepin County.

Overall, wages in the region increased 4.9 percent compared with a 3.6 percent increase statewide. Increases in all but Clark and Pepin counties exceeded the state increase. A major difference contributing to the slower rate of increase in the state was a decline in government wages of 3.1 percent.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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